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GEOLOGY.

GIGANTIC FOSSIL SERPENT FROM NEW JERSEY.—Professor Marsh describes in “American Journal of Arts and Sciences,” under the name of *Dinophis grandis*, a new and gigantic snake from the Tertiary formation of New Jersey. He says “the earliest remains of Ophidia, both in Europe and this country, have been found in the Eocene, and nearly all the species from strata older than the Post Pliocene appear to be more or less related to the constricting serpents. Remains of this character are not uncommon in European rocks, but in this country two species only, one founded on a single vertebra, have been described hitherto, and both of these were discovered in the Tertiary greensand of New Jersey.” The vertebra described “would indicate an animal not less than thirty feet in length; probably a sea-serpent allied to the Boas of the present era.”

In closing, the author states that “the occurrence of closely related species of large serpents in the same geological formation in Europe and America. just after the total disappearance in each country of Mosasaurus and its allies, which show such marked ophidian affinities, is a fact of peculiar interest, in view of the not improbable origin of the former type; and the intermediate forms which recent discoveries have led paleontologists, familiar with these groups, to confidently anticipate, will doubtless, at no distant day, reward explorations in the proper geological horizon.”



MICROSCOPY.

MICROSCOPE OBJECTIVES.—A performance of a 4-10 objective made for me by Mr. William Wales, of this city, is of such a superior character that I have no doubt it will be of interest to many of your readers. With direct or central light in contradistinction to oblique, and with the diatom mounted not dry, but in balsam, the *Pleurosigma angulata* is beautifully resolved; the three sets of lines being brought into view with great distinctness, and this with the No. 1 or A eye-piece. Amplification 210 diameters. With no equal power of Powell & Leland's of London, of Hartnack of Paris, of Tolles & Grunow of this country, or of Gundlach of Vienna, various objectives of each and all of which makers I have examined, have either, I myself, or other microscopists of my acquaintance been able to effect this. Another feat which I had recently the honor of exhibiting to several members of the “Bailey Microscopical Club” of this city was a resolution of the podura scale with its light central markings with this same 4-10. The resolution of the striæ on human muscular fibre by a 3-inch objective, also made by Mr. William Wales of this city, again challenges our admiration.—J. J. HIGGINS, M. D., 23 Beekman Place, New York.

[We referred this note to Mr. E. Bicknell, who kindly sends the following reply.—Eds.]